Feedback — XII. Support Vector Machines

Question 1

Suppose you have trained an SVM classifier with a Gaussian kernel, and it learned the following decision boundary on the training set:
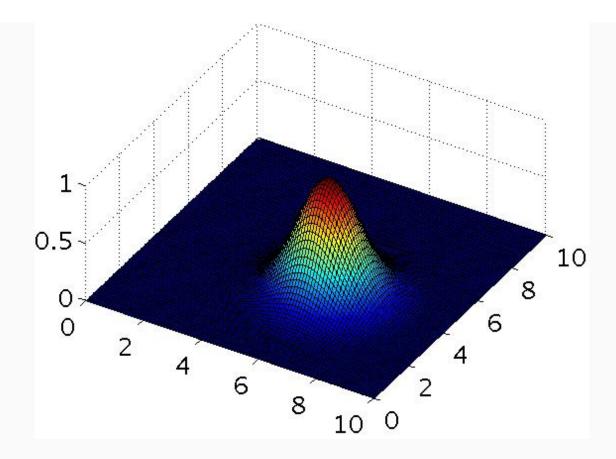

You suspect that the SVM is underfitting your dataset. Should you try increasing or decreasing C? Increasing or decreasing σ^2?

Your Answer	Score	Explanation
○ It would be reasonable to try **decreasing** C. It would also be reasonable to try **increasing** σ^2.		
○ It would be		

reasonable to try **increasing** C. It would also be reasonable to try **increasing** σ^2.

○ It would be reasonable to try **decreasing** C. It would also be reasonable to try **decreasing** σ^2.

◉ It would be reasonable to try **increasing** C. It would also be reasonable to try **decreasing** σ^2.

✔ 1.00   The figure shows a decision boundary that is underfit to the training set, so we'd like to lower the bias / increase the variance of the SVM. We can do so by either increasing the parameter C or decreasing σ^2.

Total   1.00 /
                         1.00

Question 2

The formula for the Gaussian kernel is given by $\mathrm{similarity}(x, l^{(1)}) = \exp\left(-\frac{||x - l^{(1)}||^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$.

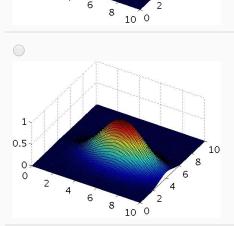The figure below shows a plot of $f_1 = \mathrm{similarity}(x, l^{(1)})$ when $\sigma^2 = 1$.

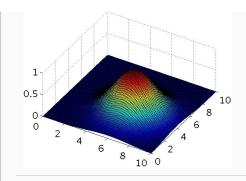Which of the following is a plot of f_1 when $\sigma^2 = 0.25$?
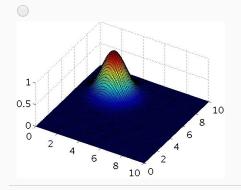
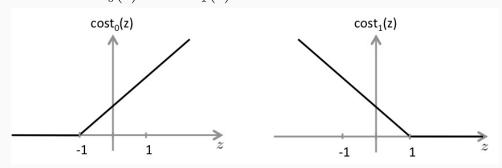| Your Answer		Score	Explanation
	✔	1.00	This figure shows a "narrower" Gaussian kernel centered at the same location which is the effect of decreasing σ^2.
○			

Total	1.00 / 1.00

Question 3

The SVM solves $\min_\theta \ C \sum_{i=1}^{m} y^{(i)}\mathrm{cost}_1\left(\theta^T x^{(i)}\right) + (1 - y^{(i)})\mathrm{cost}_0\left(\theta^T x^{(i)}\right) + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \theta_j^2$

where the functions $\mathrm{cost}_0\left(z\right)$ and $\mathrm{cost}_1\left(z\right)$ look like this:

The first term in the objective is: $C \sum_{i=1}^{m} y^{(i)}\mathrm{cost}_1\left(\theta^T x^{(i)}\right) + (1 - y^{(i)})\mathrm{cost}_0\left(\theta^T x^{(i)}\right)$.

This first term will be zero if two of the following four conditions hold true. Which are the two conditions that would guarantee that this term equals zero?

Your Answer		Score	Explanation
☑ For every example with $y^{(i)} = 0$, we have that $\theta^T x^{(i)} \leq -1$.	✔	0.25	For examples with $y^{(i)} = 0$, only the $\mathrm{cost}_0\left(\theta^T x^{(i)}\right)$ term is present. As you can see in the graph, this will be zero for all inputs less than or equal to -1.
☐ For every example	✔	0.25	$\mathrm{cost}_0\left(\theta^T x^{(i)}\right)$ is still non-zero for inputs between -1

with $y^{(i)} = 0$, we have that $\theta^T x^{(i)} \leq 0$.

and 0, so being less than or equal to 0 is insufficient.

☑ For every example with $y^{(i)} = 1$, we have that $\theta^T x^{(i)} \geq 1$.	✔ 0.25	For examples with $y^{(i)} = 1$, only the $\text{cost}_1(\theta^T x^{(i)})$ term is present. As you can see in the graph, this will be zero for all inputs greater than or equal to 1.
☐ For every example with $y^{(i)} = 1$, we have that $\theta^T x^{(i)} \geq 0$.	✔ 0.25	$\text{cost}_1(\theta^T x^{(i)})$ is still non-zero for inputs between 0 and 1, so being greater than or equal to 0 is insufficient.
Total	1.00 / 1.00	

Question 4

Suppose you have a dataset with n = 10 features and m = 5000 examples. After training your logistic regression classifier with gradient descent, you find that it has underfit the training set and does not achieve the desired performance on the training or cross validation sets. Which of the following might be promising steps to take? Check all that apply.

Your Answer	Score	Explanation
☐ Use an SVM with a Gaussian Kernel.	✘ 0.00	By using a Gaussian kernel, your model will have greater complexity and can avoid underfitting the data.
☑ Try using a neural network with a large number of hidden units.	✔ 0.25	A neural network with many hidden units is a more complex (higher variance) model than logistic regression, so it is less likely to underfit the data.
☑ Reduce the number of examples in the training set.	✘ 0.00	While you can improve accuracy on the training set by removing examples, doing so results in a worse model that will not generalize as well.
☐ Use an SVM with a linear kernel, without introducing new features.	✔ 0.25	An SVM with only the linear kernel is comparable to logistic regression, so it will likely underfit the data as well.
Total	0.50 / 1.00	

Question 5

Which of the following statements are true? Check all that apply.

Your Answer	Score	Explanation
☐ If you are training multi-class SVMs with the one-vs-all method, it is not possible to use a kernel.	✔ 0.25	Each SVM you train in the one-vs-all method is a standard SVM, so you are free to use a kernel.
☐ If the data are linearly separable, an SVM using a linear kernel will return the same parameters θ regardless of the chosen value of C (i.e., the resulting value of θ does not depend on C).	✔ 0.25	A linearly separable dataset can usually be separated by many different lines. Varying the parameter C will cause the SVM's decision boundary to vary among these possibilities. For example, for a very large value of C, it might learn larger values of θ in order to increase the margin on certain examples.
☑ It is important to perform feature normalization before using the Gaussian kernel.	✔ 0.25	The similarity measure used by the Gaussian kernel expects that the data lie in approximately the same range.
☑ The maximum value of the Gaussian kernel (i.e., $sim(x, l^{(1)})$) is 1.	✔ 0.25	When $x = l^{(1)}$, the Gaussian kernel has value $\exp(0) = 1$, and it is less than 1 otherwise.
Total	1.00 / 1.00	